

habits as the moles, but being smaller take other sets of insects and smaller animal life. They vary in size from the velvety, short-tailed shrew, about the size of a mouse, down to the tiny least shrew, the smallest mammal in America, if not in the world. Each species, however, fills its place in the animal economy of our country, and in preserving a wholesome balance of nature.

Bats are well represented about Washington by at least ten species, and of about half of these there is an abundance of individuals. They range from the great hoary bat, the large brown bat, the silvery-haired and red bats down to the little brown bat, the least brown bat, and the little pipistrelle. Anyone can see them flitting about the houses and trees in town or out in the woods on warm evenings in summer, and usually can recognize some of them by different sizes and colors before the twilight is too far advanced. To many the mention of bats brings up pictures of darkness and mystery, and vermin and hooked claws entangled in ladies' hair, and a general feeling of terror and disgust, all products of ignorance and imagination. Our bats are really highly specialized and intelligent mammals. They are clean in habits and usually free from parasites and have never been known to get in anyone's hair or to bite or hurt anyone unless abused. If handled gently they soon become quite tame and make interesting house pets, learning to come for food and water at regular times and quickly ridding the house of moths and night-flying insects.

In many cases we find a practical advantage in knowing our friends and foes in the animal world, but in any case we understand ourselves better by knowing more of what we have been taught to call the lower animals.

ZOOLOGY.—*A new toad from China.*¹ LEONHARD STEJNEGER,
United States National Museum.

Among the collections brought home by Mr. F. R. Wulsin, leader of the National Geographic Society's Expedition to Kokonor in 1923, there is a large series of an undescribed species of toad. It was collected during his stay from August 24 to 31 at Choni, on the Tao River, about 120 miles south of Lanchow, Kansu, China, consequently on the north slope of the Min range, which here forms the boundary between the provinces of Kansu and Szechwan. Rev. D. C. Graham, during his trip to Sungpan in 1924 obtained a number of specimens at the latter place, consequently on the south slope of the same range.

¹ Received Aug. 21, 1926.

Whether its habitat is restricted to this mountain system remains to be seen.

Bufo minshanicus, sp. nov.

Diagnosis.—Top of head without bony crests, except a faint one on canthus rostralis; first finger longer than second; toes webbed one half or more; sub-articular tubercles double; tarsal fold more or less distinct; tympanum distinct, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of eye; top of head with large rounded warts; upper side of tibia with large warts, more or less confluent; a large oblong gland on outer side of tarsus.

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 68567.

Type-locality.—Choni, on Tao River, Kansu, China.

Total length of type, an adult female, 78 mm.

Remarks.—This species is easily recognized among Chinese toads by the large globular tubercles on top of the head, especially a semicircle of three or four large ones marking the inner edge of the upper eyelid. The canthal ridge is also generally covered with one or more large warts. On the upper side of tibia there is one or more conspicuously large glands.

ZOOLOGY.—A new *Pelobatid* batrachian from Borneo.¹ DORIS M. COCHRAN, United States National Museum. (Communicated by A. WETMORE.)

In the splendid collection of amphibians from Borneo sent to the United States National Museum by Dr. W. L. Abbott some years ago, there is a *Pelobatid* toad belonging to the genus *Megophrys*, which has not been described. I take great pleasure in naming it after the collector, whose untiring efforts have resulted in a vast enrichment of our scientific knowledge in nearly every branch of biology.

Megophrys abbotti, new species

Diagnosis.—Profile of snout obliquely truncate, strongly projecting beyond lower jaw; canthus rostralis angular and loreal region oblique; head one and one-fifth as broad as long; tympanum distinct; tibio-tarsal articulation not reaching beyond eye; tibia two and one-half times in length from snout to vent; toes with a slight rudiment of web; vomerine teeth none; tympanum half the diameter of the eye and greater than its distance from the eye; nostril much nearer end of snout than eye.

Type.—U. S. National Museum no. 39097, collected at Balik Papan Bay, Eastern Borneo, February 6, 1909, by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Description.—Tongue nicked behind; head moderate, one and one-fifth times as broad as long; pupil vertical; snout obliquely truncate in profile, projecting beyond the lower jaw, longer than the eye; canthus rostralis very sharp; loreal region vertical, slightly concave; nostril situated at extreme end of canthus rostralis and much nearer to tip of snout than to eye; interorbital

¹ Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Received Aug. 14, 1926.